

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 180504

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 180504 ACTION GENEVA INFO USUN
NATO TOKYO MOSCOW DTD 31 JUL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 180504

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: CCD, PARM, JA, US, UR

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO JAPANESE QUESTIONS ON US DRAFT ENMOD
TREATY

REFS: (A) STATE 139940; (B) TOKYO 8100 NOTAL; (C) GENEVA
5321 NOTAL

1. US RESPONSES TO WRITTEN AND ORAL QUESTIONS RAISED BY
JAPANESE (REF C) ARE PRESENTED BWELOW.

2. PLEASE PROVIDE FOLLOWING TEXT TO JAPANESE DEL AS RE-
SPONSE TO QUESTIONS CONTAINED IN JAPANESE PAPER:

BEGIN TEXT:

(1) THE US GOVERNMENT APPRECIATES THE ENCOURAGEMENT GIVEN BY
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THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN TO TABLING IN THE CCD OF A US DRAFT
TREATY ON ENVIRONMENTAL WARFARE, WHICH HAS BEEN UNDER ACTIVE
CONSIDERATION FOR SOME TIME. CONTRARY TO OUR EXPECTATION,
US-USSR BILATERAL TALKS AT GENEVA (JUNE 16-20) RESULTED IN

SIGNIFICANT SOVIET MOVEMENT TOWARD THE APPROACH EMBODIED IN THE REVISED US DRAFT CONVEYED TO THE ALLIES EARLIER IN JUNE. WE ARE REAPPRAISING THE SITUATION IN LIGHT OF THIS DEVELOPMENT AND, FOR THE TIME BEING, WILL DEFER TABLING THE US DRAFT TREATY AT THE CCD.

(2) WHILE VIRTUALLY ALL MILITARY OPERATIONS MODIFY THE ENVIRONMENT TO SOME DEGREE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO DISTINGUISH ENVIRONMENTAL WARFARE FROM OTHER METHODS OF WARFARE WHICH MAY ALSO DAMAGE THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IN A WAR ZONE. THE CHARACTERISTIC WHICH DISTINGUISHES ENVIRONMENTAL WARFARE FROM OTHER TYPES OF WARFARE IS THE DELIBERATE RELEASING OR MANIPULATING OF THE PROCESSES OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

(3) THE US DRAFT TREATY DEALS CHIEFLY WITH THE USE, AS WEAPONS, OF TECHNIQUES FOR MANIPULATING THE NATURAL PROCESSES OF THE ENVIRONMENT; IT DOES NOT DEAL WITH ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF OTHER MEANS OF WARFARE. LIMITATIONS IN THE LATTER AREA ARE UNDER DISCUSSION AT THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON HUMANITARIAN LAW IN ARMED CONFLICT.

(4) ALL TECHNIQUES FOR THE DELIBERATE MANIPULATION OF NATURAL PROCESSES WOULD BE PROHIBITED, REGARDLESS OF THE MEANS EMPLOYED, IF THEY MET THE CRITERIA SET OUT IN ARTICLE I OF THE US DRAFT.

(5) THE TERMS "WIDESPREAD, LONG-LASTING OR SEVERE" ARE ESSENTIALLY QUALITATIVE RATHER THAN QUANTITATIVE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE FRUITFUL TO TRY TO DEFINE THEM IN A QUANTITATIVE WAY. INSTEAD, THE REVISED US DRAFT DEFINES THEIR SCOPE THROUGH THE USE OF EXAMPLES. WE BELIEVE THIS IS THE CLEAREST INDICATION POSSIBLE REGARDING THE SCOPE OF THE PROHIBITION.

(6) ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION IS STILL IN ITS INFANCY. THE MOST DEVELOPED FIELD IS WEATHER MODIFICATION. IN THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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CATEGORY DISSIPATION OF CERTAIN TYPES OF FOGS AND MODIFICATION OF PRECIPITATION, BOTH IN VERY LOCALIZED AREAS, ARE PRACTICED FOR ECONOMIC PURPOSES IN THE US AND OTHER COUNTRIES. IT APPEARS VERY UNLIKELY THAT MILITARILY IMPORTANT USE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION FOR HOSTILE PURPOSES WILL BE TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE FOR SOME YEARS TO COME. ALTHOUGH THE TECHNOLOGY FOR USING ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION AS A MAJOR WEAPON IS STILL IN THE FUTURE, WE HAVE ENOUGH KNOWLEDGE NOW OF HYPOTHETICAL OR THEORETICAL POSSIBILITIES THAT WE BELIEVE THAT MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN TO DEAL WITH POTENTIAL DANGERS TO HUMANITY WHICH COULD ARISE. END TEXT , ; RESPONSE TO VERBAL INQUIRY (REF C, PARA 2) ABOUT 3 OTIVATEONXNBEHIND US DRAFT, YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT IT

WAS FIRST PREPARED FOR ILLUSTRATIVE USE IN US-USSR CONSUL-
TATIONS AS MEANS OF DEPICTING US CONCEPT OF THE MOST PRAC-
TICAL APPROACH TO OVERCOMING THE DANGERS OF THE USE OF EN-
VIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION TECHNIQUES FOR MILITARY PUR-
POSES. INGERSOLL UNQTE INGERSOLL

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